

going on. You know how kind the shepherd is to the sheep. He keeps them out of dangerous places, keeps them on the right road, keeps wild beasts from devouring them. He loves the little lambs and carries them in His arms and keeps near them when danger is near. The brave shepherd Amos longed to keep the wild beast sin from destroying God's people Israel. He longed to keep them in the "right road," to lead them to the fold of the great shepherd where they would be safe.

The Sin of Israel—Amos saw that there was one sin which was doing great harm,—wine drinking. Like a wild beast, this sin (and others) was destroying the people who were so dear to God.

In our Lesson to-day Amos is warning the people and trying to guard them from harm and lead them back to the right road, vs. 7, 8.

One place in the Bible tells us about wine, etc. "At last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." (Outline a wine-glass.) Amos tries to save the people from the bite of this serpent. He wants to save the little children from the dreadful, deadly poisonous fangs.

Golden Text—Here is a sure way to keep from getting bitten by this serpent, strong

drink. Print, SEEK GOOD, AND NOT EVIL, THAT YE MAY LIVE. (All repeat Golden Text.) Go to places where you will hear good words and see good actions. Keep away from places and persons where evil is heard and seen (examples).

A Strong Boy or Girl—It is brave to say "No."

"Who says, 'I will' to what is right,

'I won't' to what is wrong,

Although a tender little child

Is truly great and strong."

(All repeat.)

Take Away the Danger—If you little people saw a serpent coming to bite you; you would cry out to father and mother or friend to take it away. So you must all ask your fathers and mothers and friends to do all they can to take away this ugly, dangerous serpent, strong drink, that is biting and destroying so many people in our own land, alas! in our own neighborhood. Keep the boys and girls safe! Do not let strong drink destroy them as it has destroyed thousands.

A Keeper from Evil—Some of you may tell us of one who calls Himself the Good Shepherd. He wants to keep us from all harm so that we shall be safe and happy.

Something to Think About—God hates drunkenness.

FROM THE PLATFORM

DRINK BLINDS

Call for the Lesson Title, and print BLINDS on the blackboard. Ask what it is, according to the title, that blinds. Dwell briefly on the blindness of Israel's leaders to the danger that threatened the nation. Next ask what sin is made prominent in the Lesson, and print DRINK. Talk about the ways in which drink blinds people, so that they cannot see what is best and wisest for them. Now bring out the result of sin in Israel,—captivity. Cross out the L, and turn the conversation to the fact that sin, and in particular, the sin of drink, BINDS,—makes slaves of those who use it. Call for illustrations of how drink drives its victims to do things which they would not do but for drink. Then question as follows. Are there any slaves of drink in our land? How can we help to set them free? Urge upon each scholar the importance of making sure that he will be free himself,—by abstaining from drink and helping to make others free by joining in the fight against the drink traffic.